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10. (Amended) The gel of claim 6 wherein a water-soluble polymer is further present during the polymerization of said polymer of acrylamide or derivative thereof.

12. (Amended) The gel of claim 6 wherein said gel is a capillary gel or a slab gel.

A3
13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said electrophoretic matrix is said gel described in claim 6.

A4
17. (Amended) An electrophoretic method of separating nucleic acids or PNA fragments in the presence of a polar organic solvent employing gel of claim 6 or a gel prepared according to the method of claim 13.

A5
20. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.

A6
Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said weak alkali solution is an aqueous solution of a hydrogencarbonate.